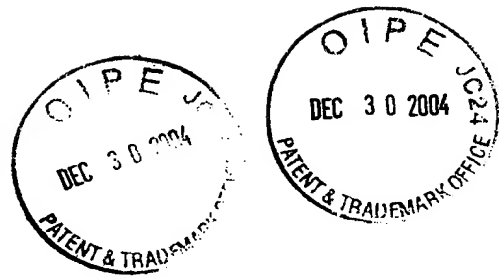


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hirohiko Hirochika et al.  
Application No. : 09/721,114 Confirmation No. : 2997  
Filing Date : November 22, 2000  
For : NOVEL GENE INVOLVED IN BRASSINOSTEROID  
RESPONSES  
Group Art Unit : 1638  
Examiner : Stuart F. Baum

New York, New York  
December 30, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment  
Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the June 30, 2004 Office Action issued in the above-identified application. Applicants have filed concurrently herewith a Petition for a three-month extension of time for replying to the Notice and have paid the required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and 1.17(a)(3). A response is due on or before December 30, 2004. Thus, this response is timely filed.

Kindly amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

EV270269470US

Appl. No. 09/721,114  
Reply dated December 30, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2004

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.